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The Negro Farmer and Messenger

Published Bi-Weekly in the Interest of the Home, Farm and Garden; especially devoted to the Interest of Negro Land Owners and Tenant Farmers

and Those Who Employ Negro Labor. The Only Negro Farm Newspaper in the World to be Circulated Among 2,000,000 Black Farmers.

Vol. 3 TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., JULY 15, 1916 No. 14

A New Center of Light

By MISS E. A. DEACE, of Birmingham, Ala.

On Sunday afternoon, July 2nd, the people of Bethel Grove community, Macon County, Alabama, dedicated a new school building which they have erected at a cost of $1,200 with the help of the fund given by Julius Rosenwald, of Chicago, for the purpose of improving rural schools. A party of teachers from the Tuskegee Summer School attended and took part in the exercises, which were held in one of the rooms of the new building.

Mr. C. J. Calloway told the story of the life of Mr. Rosenwald simply and effectively, emphasizing his earnest desire to help his country by helping the man farthest down.

Mr. Sanford H. Lee of Birmingham led a short discussion with the women present, on the work of the canning clubs, the home gardens and the raising of pigs, chickens and cows.

Miss Gee, of Decatur, told of her work in the county schools of Morgan County, and suggested methods of earning money to get things needed for the school. Miss E. A. Deace of Birmingham spoke briefly to the boys who were present urging them to be the finest product of the school—strong, clean, intelligent men.

Mr. C. D. Robinson made an interesting and helpful talk on using the things at hand and doing what we can do best.

The address of the day was delivered by Prof. Wm. Welch, principal of the city school of Tuskegee. Practical in its suggestion, interesting and brimful of sane optimism, he held his hearers by a series of aptly told stories which illustrated his points.

Mrs. Powell, to whom much credit is due for inspiring the people to help themselves, told briefly the story of her work as teacher there, and also introduced the speakers of the occasion.

The house serves not only as a school but as a model home, for its outward appearance suggests a quiet, happy home.

There are two school rooms, properly lighted and ventilated, and furnished with comfortable seats. On the walls hang the pictures of Fred Douglass, Abraham Lincoln and Booker T. Washington. How potent the influence of the faces and the lives of these men may be in the lives of these boys and girls who must overcome difficulties — who can tell?

A hall separates these two rooms and serves as a passage way to the front of the building which serves the double purpose of teachers' home and practice cottage. A home-made book case held a few books. Dainty white curtains hung at the windows.

The kitchen contained a good stove, table, pantry, and a set of painted shelves which held dishes, knives, forks, spoons and glasses. Spotless white curtains hung at the windows and the home-made cupboard.

A neatly furnished dining room in which we were served dinner, and a living room opened out on a porch.

As the afternoon drew to a close and we sat out in the yard and watched the boys and girls and their parents wending their way home, a fuller realization of what this simple event means to us all came over us.

The sacrifice of poor and ignorant people, the generosity of a man, a Jew, bound to them by no ties of race or religion, and the faithful consecration of a teacher working for a pittance, all striving toward the truth which shall make us free.

Another picture came to my mind as we drove back toward Tuskegee, a picture of Booker Washington talking to the Negroes at Cottage Grove in Coosa County one year ago.

The burden of the Negro in rural communities rested heavily upon him and he had worked to bring all these forces for good together in this little corner and who can say how many others!

Truly has it been said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

BEATING THE BOLL WEEVIL

Every farmer and farm householder can solve the boll weevil problem by canning fruits and vegetables. Now is the time to can berries, peaches, corn, beans, tomatoes, squash, okra, etc. These things do not only save your money in the winter, but they also taste mighty good

The Fruits of Hustling

By C. J. CALLOWAY, Director of Extension Department, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

The average colored man does not know how to hustle. This is perhaps as true of the farmer as it is of those following any other occupation. The average farmer does not look far enough ahead—does not plan his business well. He puts off for tomorrow what he might do today; he is satisfied with make-shifts.

I have come in touch this year with quite a number of farmers, who in planting cotton, got their seed in the ground just about the time a continuous long spell began; the result was, they were from thirty to fifty days late in getting their cotton up and started to growing. Some of these farmers gave as their reason that they wanted to be sure the ground was warm enough to bring up the seed, and they did not have enough seed to replant in case the cold spell killed the first planting.

There were other farmers who planted early, practically all the seed which they had, running the risk of losing their first planting. The early planter caught the season, got his cotton up and is from thirty to fifty days ahead of the other man, and is almost certain of a fair crop if he can keep the boll weevil from destroying it. In other words, the early planter has a much better chance of making good than the man planting late.

There was another class of farmers, however, wiser than the wisest of the above two

classes. This latter class of farmers saved enough seed last fall to make two plantings on the acreage which he planned to put in. He reasoned that if the first and early planting was destroyed by cold, he would then have seed enough to replant the same acreage and without great hinderance. This class of farmer, as a rule, has a splendid prospect for cotton this year because he caught the early seasons and got an early start. He was able to sell his seed reserved for replanting to the late and improvident farmer who did not save seed for planting. These seed reserved for second planting, were sold for much higher price than seed sold last fall.

The hustling farmer, the farmer who looks ahead, the farmer who tries to be on time, will provide plenty of good planting seed so as to meet any emergency, face it and overcome it.

A Story of Rural Schoolhouse Building in Hale County

BY VERNON W. BARNETT

One of the most beautiful, as well as far-reaching features of the Tuskegee Institute, is its Extension Department, under the direction of Prof. C. J. Calloway. No philanthropy has done a greater service—and none can—than that of reaching out into the forlorn regions of the rural distrcits, reclaiming, from the grip of ignorance and shiftlessness, the thousands of Negro youth who otherwise would become a menace to civilization—shackles, as it were, upon the feet of their race and nation.

On May 12, 1915, I was sent by the Extension Department into Hale County for the main purpose of assisting in the matter of building Rosenwald schoolhouses. I found Superintendent G. N. Williams to be very much interested in Negro education, and in fact, denied himself his usual summer vacation that he might help to arouse the colored people in this work.

Bay Spring Community

Bay Spring was the first community visited. I didn't find the usual cry, "The panic is on," but I found the highest sort of community pride and a whole-souled desire to follow the proper leadership, and Mrs. Williams, a colored widow of the community, donated all the timber necessary for the building while Mr. Robert Burroughs gave the 2 acres of land. This much accomplished, the men left their farms and went into the woods with their tools, wagons and teams and pretty soon we had as fine lot of timber at the saw mill ready to be sawed as I have ever seen. In this connection, I wish to mention the broadheartedness of Mr. Neal Burroughs who lost sight of his individual interest and left his crop to suffer in order to push the school work. Today, instead of the old broken down schoolhouse, there stands in this community a beautiful and well equipped school building with its library, kitchen, class room, and work room, where not only the patrons may meet and discuss matters pertaining to the general uplift of the community but where the boys and girls can get that kind of training so essential to their greatest usefulness.

Newbern School

At Newbern, Alabama, there was no schoolhouse worth the while and the people wanted a better building but were in wild confusion as to how they might come up to the condition of raising the required $300.00. But, fortunately for the little Negro boys and girls of this little village, there was present in this meeting an old lady—perhaps the oldest in Newbern—who was ashamed to cry "Hard times" and rose with trembling voice and animated countenance and headed the subscription list with $1.00. One beautiful morning in September this same old lady was seen standing at the gate of a colored citizen of the place, selling cake. She said, "I promised $1.00 toward the erection of a schoolhouse at this place and I've baked this cake that I may comply with that promise." Whether she sold all of her cake or not, I am unable to say, but this one thing I know; that great speech she made with that basket on her arms whose contents bespoke such a noble mission, fired the ambition of all Newbern, and whites and blacks alike joined hands in erecting the building. Indeed, one white man advanced $600 toward the structure that is worth $1,000.

Interest of Whites in the Work

I am often asked as to the co-operation of the white people in the matter of schoolhouse building. Space will not permit a full description of their interest, but I shall mention one of many instances.

At Akron, Alabama, where Mr. Chas. Lichtman owns considerable property, we needed land for a school site. Although his land had been cut into lots for which he was receiving $100 each, Mr. Lichtman gave twelve of these lots that we might have a suitable place for the building.

We found little Negro school property in Hale County, but through the co-operative efforts of the colored and white people there, we left school property valued at $9,000, five thousand dollars of this amount being raised by the colored people.

WHERE ARE THE FARMER BOYS?

Dear MESSENGER: Something keeps buzzing round my heart that seeks to be made known. You will recall, no doubt, the article which I sent to you some time ago before your consolidation with the FARMER trying to discuss the above topic.

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note my account of the almost numberless host of boys who have and are now crowding ignorantly and daily into such large cities as Birmingham, Montgomery and others. These boys, no doubt, every one, were filled with a desire of some kind to attain to some great calling in life, but because of something, have inmigrated to these cities there to spend their lives in worthless toil. The worst of all, some of these boys are under age, and have scarcely spent a week or even a day in such places before. With such an experience of city life no wonder that their poor mothers shake their hands to never meet with them alive again, or if so, crippled or maimed in some way for life. The writer has carefully thought the matter over time after time and considers it a grave concern that threatens not only to menace the population of our race, but the destruction of many a Christian leader whose vacant space can never be filled, thus retarding our educational progress as well.

If I were asked to name the direct causes of this immigration, I should confine them to these three reasons: the lack of home comforts, the lack of farm comforts and the lack of educational advantages, of which the writer wishes to mention in a brief way.

How many are the mothers and fathers of the rural districts who think their sons should be contented in an old patched suit of clothes, a little cocked hat and a pair of the hardest shoes to be found? The boys are growing tired of being "cheap," that's all. In his bed room you will find all the old, useless plunder of the house and ofttimes some of the farm tools. Clear out his room and ventilate it just as you do the girl's! Make his room comfortable insomuch that in all his going he'll find no place like home.

In many of the farm arrangements the boy has to walk everywhere. No buggy, the stock too poor to ride and often no saddle if the stock is fat. Corn grows too small, cotton too low, no vegetable growing, no meat supply and the boy, in the spirit of the writer, sees nothing in sight but starvation and must leave for support of himself and often for the family.

Last, but not least, is his educational advantages. If from the country come some of our most noted men of all vocations, it is high time the attention of the race is being turned to the grasping of such characters with graver concern, especially in an age in which these boys are being rushed to the cotton fields and other hard tasks while the girls are receiving the instruction that in a large proportion should be shared with the boys. The buzzing round the writer's heart shall never cease until something has been done to relieve this appalling situation. The mothers and fathers of such boys will awake too late to find their sons dead in some mine explosion or bound in chains for some reckless deed and their educated daughters lonely for husbands.

The Final End

The writer believes that nature deals with all things alike. She teaches her fruit trees to throw off all young fruit they cannot use. In like manner shall the population of boys decrease until we find a better place to use them.

E. G. Braxton, Reporter.
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A. A. Chandler, Baldwin Farms, Route 1, Milstead, Alabama.

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The Negro Farmer and Messenger

VERNON W. BARNETT----*Editor and Business Mgr.*

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SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1916

The present issue of THE NEGRO FARMER AND MESSENGER would be incomplete without a foreword regarding the retiring editor, Mr. Isaac Fisher. We take this method of expressing our regrets of his departure and of acknowledging our deep obligations to him for the very valuable services he has rendered the entire race through his very able editorials. However many our regrets, we congratulate him upon his promotion to a broader field, which he so richly deserves.

COMPLAINING AND ITS EVILS

In these days of boll weevil invasion, we are very apt to yield to the temptation of complaining instead of thinking, planning, working.

To those who think the way hard, who are excited over the boll weevil situation—who feel that the weevil, in puncturing the squares, will inject his deadly sting into your pocketbooks and threaten starvation, I would say in the language of God to the Israelites who were bitten by the serpent, "Look and live." This beautiful injunction did not apply to the Israelites more than to us of this very day. Let us open our eyes and behold the vast possibilities at our very door. Look to corn, potatoes, peas, peanuts and sugar cane. They will feed our families, fatten our hogs, increase our bank account. Don't whine but plan, work and live.

A Man Who Did Not Complain

A few months ago, I met Mr. Tom Ruffin, a colored farmer of Cedarville, Alabama, who tells this interesting story in connection with his success as a farmer. "The first year I began farming, my yoke of oxen died and I applied to my landlord for a mule with which to carry on my farm. I found him taking a noon nap. He opened his eyes just long enough to ask if I had any security. When I replied in the negative, he resumed his nap, leaving me standing there as embarrassed as I ever was. I didn't complain, for the landlord's money was his to keep or loan as pleased him most. Instead of whining, I put on two spurs, as it were, and strictly adhered to the laws of industry and economy and at the end of the first year, cleared sufficient money to purchase a mule." Mr. Ruffin, today, owns 1,500 acres of as fine land as can be found anywhere in the State of Alabama, has a respectable bank account, raises hogs and cattle to sell and is a model for the colored people of his county.

Our Manhood Tested

We have all been pushed off the log, as it were, into the great sea of life and he who fails to struggle — who folds his arms and gives up, must drown. He is not worth saving. Anybody can solve easy propositions, anybody can eat so long as the other fellow is furnishing the food but when you are thrown out on your resources amidst boll weevil conditions, if you don't think, plan and work well, you must suffer. How is it with you, Mr. Farmer? Will you be placed on the balance and found wanting? Are you sure that you have planted enough peas, potatoes, corn and sugar cane to tide you over the next year? Are you pushing the pigs and poultry as you should? Now is the time to prove your mettle. Remember that the borrowing and credit system is a thing of the past.

A Final Word

The complainer, whatever the nature of his business, injects his venom into every activity of the community and produces other whining spirits, for "Evil communications corrupt good manners." If the clouds above us seem dark and dreary, smile and the beautiful sunlight of hope will send forth his beautiful rays into our lives, into our business. Remember that our homes, our farms, our schools, our churches, our communities will bear the "Earmarks" of our character. Look ahead for the mud holes and prepare for the droughts as well as the rainy season, for difficulties are simply whetstones that sharpen our abilities for doing things. The other man's farm is better than yours, his horses fatter and hogs larger, because he worked while you complained. "Look and live!"

—VERNON W. BARNETT.

Mr. Isaac Fisher who has been editor of THE NEGRO FARMER AND MESSENGER ever since its establishment, did a splendid service with his brain and with his pen. Mr. Fisher entered into the Extension work of the Tuskegee Institute as a special assistant last November; thus becoming closely associated with us in the plans and purposes of helping the people who live in the country and on the farm. Mr. Fisher has been called to a position at Fisk University. We regret very much to give up Mr. Fisher, but we wish for him the greatest success possible in his new field of labor. Mr. Fisher carries with him the very best wishes of every member of the Extension Department, and I feel quite sure that his strong personality will be missed by the whole official and student body of Tuskegee Institute.

C. J. CALLOWAY,
Director Extension Department.

Farmers, Keep Out of Debt

There are too many of us that will buy all we can get on a credit. We have our corn cribs and smoke-house too far from home. Every farmer ought to manage to have some corn, meat, peas, potatoes, butter, eggs, to exchange for everything he has to have that comes from town.

Those of us that are in debt, let us try for just one year to raise what we use at home, or raise something to exchange for what we can't raise, and just say we won't buy anything on credit except something we are just compelled to have, and see the difference in your pocketbook that fall. The man who won't buy much on a credit is the one all the public is dogging at to sell. So, if those of us who have a credit, if we use it too much will ruin us. Take the agents, they ruin a lot of farmers who will buy all they can on a credit. If we buy from every agent that comes along we are a goner. The money we use is first dug out of the earth by the old farmer who rolls up his sleeves and goes down in the mud after it. Then here comes two-thirds of the world after it with all kinds of schemes. Book agents, pump agents, fruit agents, well curb agents, picture agents and every kind of a scheme to get you in debt for something that is no good. There is more in saving than in making. To make a success at anything we have got to stick to it through the hard times as well as the good times. We don't make good crops every year and get a good price for cotton. So the man that tries public work one year and farming another may be at public work the year cotton is a good price and say, "Well, I am going to try the farm another year" and will come out and rent a crop, buy all he uses on a credit, and that fall cotton comes down and leaves him in the hole.

So the next year he goes back to public work and cotton that fall is up again. So a rolling stone gathers no moss. If we will just stick to the farm one year after another we will come out all right. — C. W. Chatham, in the *Southern Cultivator*.

A Boy's First Farm

It's always gratifying to us to meet a farmer who is encouraging his boy by giving him a patch on some part of the farm to plant as he wishes to raise something he can call his own. It is good education for the boy —a start to make and have something of his own. Something to sell and take in some cash, the result of his labor. What is nicer than for the boy to have a little cash to count and jingle in his pocket, while he plans to add more to it the next year? It brings about a partnership and companionship with father and son that may last for life or finally result in the son taking father's place when he is old and no longer able to look after things. While down at Anniston, Alabama, May 30th, we met Mr. Barry, father of Mr. Willie C. Barry, and learned about Willie's first farm, which consisted of a small corner in the patch—triangular—that he could almost jump across. Now, this was when Willie was about four years old. He did so well and with father's encouragement he wanted a larger patch next time. This continued until he was large enough to join the boy's corn club and it seems that Willie won a prize and went to the agricultural college one year or he is soon to take a year there. He is now about 16 years old and a very enthusiastic young farmer, and we shall look forward to the day when Willie will be one of the leading farmers of that section, and why? He had the right kind of encouragement from father who is helping to educate the boy to stay on the farm rather than away from it. That's the kind of boys we need to grow to make good citizens.—E. B. A., in the *Southern Cultivator*.

Peanuts

We are inserting below a very important clipping from Bulletin No. 31, by Prof. Geo. W. Carver, Director of Experiment Station, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, on "How to Grow the Peanut and 105 Ways of Preparing It For Human Consumption." No Bulletin more vitally concerns the economic welfare of our people. This Bulletin is free to those who apply and Prof. Carver will gladly send them out as long as they last.

As a Food for Man

By reason of its superior food value the peanut has become almost a universal diet for man, and when we learn its real value, I think I am perfectly safe in the assertion that it will not only become a prime essential in every well-balanced dietary, but a real necessity. Indeed, I do not know of any one vegetable that has such a wide range of food possibilities.

Of all the money crops grown by Macon County farmers, perhaps there are none more promising than the peanut in its several varieties and their almost limitless possibilities.

Of the many good things in their favor, the following stand out as most prominent:

1. Like all other members of the pod-bearing family, they enrich the soil.
2. They are easily and cheaply grown.
3. For man the nuts possess a wider range of food values than any other legume.
4. The nutritive value of the hay as a stock food compares favorably with that of the cow pea.
5. They are easy to plant, easy to grow and easy to harvest.
6. The great food and forage value of the peanut will increase in proportion to the rapidity with which we make it a real study. This will increase consumption, and therefore, must increase production.
7. In this county two crops per year of the Spanish variety can be raised.
8. The peanut exerts a dietetic or a medicinal effect upon the human system that is very desirable.
9. I doubt if there is another foodstuff that can be so universally eaten, in some form, by every individual.
10. Pork fattened from peanuts and hardened off with a little corn just before killing is almost if not quite equal to the famous Red-gravy hams or the world renowned Beech-nut breakfast bacon.
11. The nuts yield a high percentage of oil of superior quality.
12. The clean cake, after the oil has been removed, is very high in muscle-building properties (protein), and the ease with which the meal blends in with flour, meal, etc., makes it of especial value to bakers, confectioners, candy-makers, and ice cream factories.
13. Peanut oil is one of the best known vegetable oils.
14. A pound of peanuts contains a little more of the body-building nutrients than a pound of sirloin steak, while of the heat and energy producing nutrients it has more than twice as much.

A glance at the table below is sufficient to impress anyone most favorably with the superior value of the peanut as a food:

Food	Water	Protein (Muscle-builders)	Carbohydrates Fat-formers)
Peanuts	9.2%	25.8%	63.0%
Boston Beans .	12.6%	22.5%	59.6%
Cow Pea	13.0%	21.4%	60.8%

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Negro Farmer Devises Method of Eradicating Boll Weevil

John McDuffie, a Negro planter six miles east of the city, has worked a novel and seemingly certain means of eradicating the boll weevil. He has two hundred and fifty acres of the finest cotton probably in this county, which is full of blooms and not a single weevil is to be found in it. On being asked how he killed them, he said he does not kill them, but prevents their coming to his cotton. McDuffie is an intelligent man, and originated the method of running them away himself. If it is a fact, it is claimed, he has found the long sought method of preventing the waste of millions of dollars in the South through the ravage of this first Mexican evil.

The method is simple. McDuffie takes crude oil, tar, and camphor gum. He puts these in a pot and boils them. With sufficient oil in the mixture to make it liquid, he wets common croker sacks in the mixture, then squeezes them as dry as he thinks necessary. He says if too much of the liquid is used it will kill the young cotton. The wet sacks are fastened by a drag stick attached to the plow beam. Each week the crop is plowed and dragged over with these saturated sacks, both sides of the cotton getting a touch from the fumes of the mixture. On going down one side the sack touches lightly one side, and then when the plow returns it touches the other side.

This method costs about fifteen cents an acre, McDuffie says. He says he used the method with success last year and that he will get five more bales per horse this year by having the weevils out of the way. If it is a success, and it seemingly is, say those who saw his whole crop which stands to show for itself, this Negro has solved a problem that has confronted the best brains in the South for the past ten years.—*Montgomery Advertiser*, July 7.

The Sunday School Lesson

July 16th. Subject: Paul at Athens. Acts 17:16-34. Golden Text, 17:28.

The substance of the lesson for this Sunday is the address delivered by Paul on Mars Hill and regarded by many as one of the great addresses of all times. It was delivered to a very learned and cultured audience, the scholars, debaters and philosophers of Athens in ancient Greece. The purpose of Paul was to expose to these men the error of their worship of idols and to present Jesus Christ to them as their guide and teacher ordained of God to instruct men in the way of righteousness.

They were wrong, he pointed out to them, in supposing that God had a fixed and local habitation: that He was confined to any one place. As Creator and Lord of all things, He was to be found everywhere and in all things: He is too great for anything that he has made to contain him in all His greatness and goodness and power.

They were wrong again, he said, in bringing gifts to God as though He needed what they had to offer. Instead, it is He that made and sustains all things: the earth is the Lord's and we are only the stewards of His bounty.

Again they were wrong in supposing that anything that a man could make could in any way be a proper representation of God. No idol, no image, no statue, however costly, however ornate, however cunningly fashioned could be-

gin to show forth the real majesty and splendor and glory of the Godhead. Just as man himself is more glorious than any image he may fashion of gold or silver or stone, so is God, who in turn has fashioned man after His own image, more glorious than the creature that He has made.

What God wants, he said, is not temples, not images, not rich gifts, but righteousness. In this he will judge the world. Now if any man will know how he may please God let him learn of Jesus Christ whom God hath approved as a teacher by raising him from the dead.

For Daily Use: God dwells everywhere, especially in men: "Ye are the temple of God," said Paul.

"We are his offspring:" do you look like your Father?

July 23rd. Subject, Paul At Corinth. Acts 18:1-22. Golden Text, Acts 18:9.

This lesson records the events that led up to the beginning of Paul's great mission to the Gentiles. In the first years of his ministry he had preached the gospel "to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles." But when he reached Corinth he found the opposition so strong among certain of the Jews that he washed his hands of them and declared his intention of going to the Gentiles.

Corinth was a rich city as Athens was a learned city. But Paul enters it to take up his abode with two humble and devout tentmakers, Aquila and Priscilla, and to work with them for a living. In II Corinthians, the 11th chapter, Paul alludes to his reasons for doing this. But it was not long before he was stoutly opposed by certain leaders of the Jews. He tried to reason with them, but found that in their blindness and prejudice they even contradicted themselves. Then it was that he gave up all hope of winning them; so washing his hands, as Pilate had done when he turned Jesus over to be crucified, Paul announces his intention of carrying out a special mission to the Gentiles.

For their own safety he leaves the home of his Jewish friends and his home with a Greek friend Titus Justus. But opposition follows him and the new leader of the synagogue, Sosthenes hails him before the Roman governor Gallio on a charge of sedition. But when Gallio heard the charge he dismissed the case without a hearing. Then Sosthenes got into trouble for the people turned on him in the judgment hall and beat him before the governor.

Paul continued his work in Corinth till the church was well established—in all nearly two years. From Corinth he journeyed through Syria, Galatia and Phrygia doing the work that has made him the greatest figure in the church since Christ.

For Daily Use: When men resist the truth you can do nothing for them. When you are right friends will come to you from unexpected quarters.

To please God we must sometimes displease men; when that happens do not be afraid.

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